Vol. V. Numb. 15.

The EXAMINER.

From Friday January 15, to Monday January 18, 1713.

———*Tutior eſſe domi.* Martial.

WHEN the following *Letter* firſt came to my Hands, I imagin'd, by ſome Expreſſions of good-Nature relating to the *Examiner*, that I had been Trick'd in my Correſpondence, and was going to be Impos'd upon by one of thoſe ſly Methods of *Banter*, which I preſumed by this time my *Waggiſh Friends* might have wholly laid aſide, after the Ill-Succeſs of former Attempts in that kind. But when I had gone through, and carefully peruſed it, I found the Sentiments ſo juſt, the Obſervations ſo well-grounded, and the Remarks ſo proper, ſeaſonable and uſeful, that I immediately reſolved to Print it entire, and give it to the *Reader*, juſt as I had it brought to me. If I were to queſtion the *Writer*'s Sincerity in any thing, it it ſhould be where he profeſſes *not to have much Acquaintance with Courts*; and tho' perhaps my Intelligence does not reach to many *Facts* which he there ſuppoſes, neither can I venture to affirm that ſeveral of the *Caſes*, put by him, are now actually ſubſiſting; yet as no Body knows how ſoon thoſe Caſes may happen, his Judgment thereupon may be of ſingular Uſe hereafter, and ſerve at leaſt by way of Prevention in the mean time. I ſhould not allow him to Compliment me, did he not more handſomely Reproach me the very next Moment. I have indeed been ſo taken up with the *Miniſtry*, that I ſcarce ever minded the *Court*; and by conſidering them altogether, in relation to their Fellow-Subjects, omitted to take any Notice of their Conduct with regard to each other. Either I or Time muſt make amends for this Failure, not that I am going to entertain the *Whigs*; who, no doubt, would be glad to hear Miſchief, even tho' it be not of their Making.

To the EXAMINER.

SIR!

'THere are few of your *Readers*, who are better entertain'd than I am with many of your *Papers*. I allow the Vivacity of Imagination, the Compaſs of your Reading, the Accuracy of your Style, and moſt commonly the Strength and Juſtneſs of your Remarks and Reproofs. I can eaſily admit, that thoſe Men, who call themſelves *Whigs*, have either forgot their own old Reaſonings, or will not know them again, when they come out of any other Mouth but what is employ'd in their Service. I can as readily grant, that they, who formerly valued themſelves upon that Denomination, always pretended a more than ordinary Zeal for all *Conſtitutional Bills*, were Jealous of the leaſt Encroachments upon *Liberty*, would never concur to enter into, or ſupport any *Wars*, which were not abſolutely neceſſary; and when *Wars* were neceſſary, they adviſed and promoted the carrying of them on rather *Navally*, than by *Land-Forces:* They took an unuſual Care to Pry into, Detect and Puniſh all Miſmanagement and Miſapplication of the publick Monies in this Service; and at the End of every *War*, were for ſpeedily Disbanding whatever *little Armies* had been raiſed. When you ſhew how much the Men, who at preſent take upon them the Character of *Whigs*, have Deſerted theſe good Principles, you ſeem to me charitably to admoniſh them to Recollect themſelves, and to conſider on what Occaſions they had once the good Luck to be eſteem'd Patriots and Lovers of their Country. I approve your Deſign; and tho' you ſometimes mingle a little *Satire* with your Admonitions, I am not offended. Perhaps, where Men are apt to run Headlong, and follow Implicitly in the Track of their Leaders, by the mere Impulſe of *Party*, ſo ſoon as the Selfiſh, the Ambitious and Deſigning Men among them, are reſolved to diſtinguiſh themſelves by Heading a *Faction*, and put their Followers upon a wrong Scent, by their eagerneſs to purſue their own particular Quarry; ſuch Levity and Giddineſs, ſuch Raſhneſs and Frenzy, is not to be Cur'd without ſome ſort of *Scarification*. Here, Sir, give me leave to remind you, that nothing can be of greater Uſe, than to let the honeſt and well-meaning *Whigs* know, that *good Laws* and a *due Execution* of them (whoever were the Perſons in the Adminiſtration) was all that they formerly ſeem'd to aim at in *Civils*; and *Liberty of Conſcience* for *Proteſtant Diſſenters*, without any Reſerve of *Power*, was the whole of what they ſeem'd to Deſire or Demand in Matters of *Religion*. Certainly this Struggle for *Power* and *Places* proceeds from other Motives, than the deſire of doing Good or Love of our Country; and muſt naturally produce a Train of ill Conſequences, very Prejudical and Fatal to the Publick. The *Young Gentry* no longer fit themſelves for Profeſſions; the *Trading Youth* turn *Politicians*, before they are out of their *Time*; and Both depend upon making an Intereſt to get a *Place*. At this rate all maſterly Degrees of *Learning* are in danger of being loſt among us: The *Commerce* of the World may be entirely carried on by our Neighbours; and whilſt we make all the *Noiſe* about Trade, they may run away with all the *Profits*. We ſhall neither have any more finiſh'd *Scholars*, nor general *Merchants* bred up; and the worſt Claim to Preferment will be made the ſtrongeſt, when every idle Creature ſhall preſs his being taken care of, for want of other Employment. Theſe are Proſpects diſmal enough; but it is ſtill more melancholy to conſider, that for want of a ſufficient Number of *Places*, to accommodate the vaſt Crowds of Candidates, who Educate themſelves for nothing elſe, all our preſent and ſucceeding *Miniſters of State* will be perpetually teiz'd, worry'd and found fault with, be they never ſo Able or Honeſt; and conſequently, the poor Innocent *Countryman*, the *Gentry*, *Freeholders*, and *Populace*, will never come to know throughly, whether they are well or ill ſerved *Above*, and who are their trueſt *Patriots* and beſt Benefactors. *Whig* and *Tory* make but a lingring War of it, in compariſon of the Heats, Feuds and Animoſities, that muſt continually reign between thoſe who are *In*, and thoſe who are *Out*. Hence will ſpring a conſtant Flux of *Factions*, duly ſucceeding one another: We ſhall be divided and ſubdivided, minc'd and crumbl'd into confus'd Atoms and Particles; and be every Day in danger of a *Civil War*; which, the moment it breaks out, muſt infallibly ſwallow up our *Religion* and *Liberties*. Having ſet theſe Truths before you, I know not whether *You* and your *Readers* may not think them look like the waking Dreams of a diſtemper'd ſplenatick Fancy. I wiſh, for my Country's Sake,

they

‘ they may prove ſo, rather than appear to have
‘ any Marks of the *Prophetick Spirit* about them.
‘ But the Symptoms are too plain and obvious. We ſee
‘ theſe Calamities approach apace, and ſome of them
‘ are almoſt begun already. Let him, who doubts it,
‘ remember how the *Levees* of the *Late Miniſtry*
‘ ſwarm'd with Candidates and Sollicitors for Prefer-
‘ ment; and then let his own Eyes ſatisfy him, whe-
‘ ther thoſe of the *Preſent Miniſtry* are at all Un-
‘ peopl'd and grown bare of Attendants; whether they
‘ are not infeſted with ſome Men, who gape for *Places*,
‘ before they are fit for them; with others, who do not
‘ intend to deſerve them; and with many, who tho'
‘ they are well enough provided for already, are not,
‘ and never can, or will be ſatisfy'd. I know not what
‘ Diviſions there are at *Court*; as theſe things ſtand,
‘ no *Miniſtry* can be long without them. You dropt
‘ ſomething in *one* of your *Papers*, like a Suſpicion,
‘ that there were ſome; but in *another Paper* you ſay,
‘ it was a *Bite*: And I believe it is ſo: But, whether it
‘ is a *Bite* or no, unleſs Men will ſtint their Avarice
‘ and Ambition, no Sett of *Miniſters* can continue long;
‘ and if any of the preſent Great Men are Tainted
‘ with thoſe Vices, they, who are ſo, will be Reſtleſs
‘ and Uneaſy, will Squabble with thoſe above them,
‘ and Seduce thoſe under them; will Repine and find
‘ Fault, and ſpread about their Diſcontent in Whiſ-
‘ pers and Meſſages. I am not much acquainted with
‘ *Courts*; but I very well remember, that the *ableſt* and
‘ *honeſteſt Man* in the *Late Miniſtry*, was ſerv'd in this
‘ manner. They repreſented his Power as much greater
‘ than really it was: They gave out, that he obſtructed
‘ ſuch and ſuch good Things, which had been expected
‘ from him; and they flung the *Odium* of all unpopu-
‘ lar Meaſures upon him, when perhaps he had been
‘ the moſt forward to oppoſe them. If there are Men
‘ in Employments, who, it may be, have too much
‘ done for them already, and yet are unſatisfy'd; me-
‘ thinks ſuch craving, hungry Creatures, are as ripe
‘ for the Chaſtiſements of your Pen, as the moſt aban-
‘ don'd *Whigs* or maddeſt *Diſſenters*. By *Chaſtiſements* I
‘ mean writing *Eſſays* againſt their Political Errors
‘ and Extravagances, without any deſcription of their
‘ Perſons; ſo that there may be no Reflection but
‘ what the Guilty only ought to anſwer for, by apply-
‘ ing it to themſelves: Such a Method may poſſibly
‘ ſerve to reclaim them, unleſs they are gone too far.
‘ If there any about the *Court*, who had rather hurt
‘ their Friends and Themſelves, than not ſay a witty
‘ Thing, or tell a diverting Story, they ought to be
‘ told, that this Entertaining Quality, *Wit*, muſt, in
‘ the keeping of a *Stateſman*, be conceal'd and ma-
‘ nag'd almoſt as carefully as an Infirmity. If there
‘ are others within your notice, who are ſo far tranſ-
‘ ported with Envy, or bewitch'd with Flattery, as to
‘ forget that their own great Riſe is chiefly owing to a
‘ mutual good Underſtanding with their *Friends*; cor-
‘ rect as you can, with that Delicacy of which you are
‘ a Maſter, theſe pernicious Miſtakes. I have ſaid all
‘ I will; and am far from calling you off from other
‘ Game. But if our Great Men ſhould be tempted to
‘ fall out, or embrace ſo fatal an *Hereſy*, as that *a Mi-*
‘ *niſtry divided againſt it ſelf can ſtand* (I ſpeak only by
‘ way of Prevention) do you, Sir, as a Stander by,
‘ as an *Examiner*, animadvert upon their Miſconduct.
‘ You cannot do any thing, which is and will be of
‘ greater Service to thoſe, whoſe Intereſt you ſo often,
‘ ſo heartily, and ſo handſomely eſpouſe. I am one of
‘ that declining Party, who love all honeſt Men of
‘ whatever Denomination, and earneſtly pray for Peace
‘ at home, as well as abroad. In which wiſh, I que-
‘ ſtion not, but you will join with, *Sir*,

Your humble Servant, &c.

The two main Grievances complain'd of in this *Letter*, are of dangerous Conſequence; and one of them, I fear, is but too well-grounded. Whilſt our Neighbours are contracting their *Finances* and *Court-Offices*, upon the cloſe of the War, as particularly in *Germany*, *Savoy*, *Sicily* and *Pruſſia*, it is very ſtrange that we, who are no ſuch gainers by the *Ballance* of the *Military Account*, ſhould be for creating new Dependencies, and for multiplying the number of *Reverſions* to the *Civil Liſt*, even beyond the common Quota of *Incumbents*. I wiſh many of my Countrymen would proceed regularly in ſome other *Academy*, before they apply to the *Court*; that they would not confound *Reward* with *Service*, but lay in a little Stock of *private Merit*, before they offer at making it a Rent-charge upon the *Publick*. I have throughly conſider'd the Nature and Conſtitution of a *Modern Levee*, and will ſhortly produce a Plan for the better Government and Regulation of that Body Politick. If the *Univerſity-Carriers* and *City Companies* were allowed to take up, and *matriculate* or *bind 'Prentice*, a ſufficient quantity of *Levee-Hunters* once a *Quarter*, it would be a great Eaſe to the Publick. I once deliver'd in a *Project* for *Stamping* all *humble Petitions*, in order to raiſe Money for a *Lottery*; wherein the Proprietors of thoſe Goods might have a fairer Pretence of making their Fortunes by Chance, than they can have of doing it any other way. Our Patriots will forgive me for being merry upon a Subject, that gives them ſo much ſolid Trouble. Certainly they muſt have very odd Notions of their Fellow Subjects, and imagine that even their own Diſcernment is ſtrangely ſuſpected, when they ſee *Upſtarts* and *Vagabonds* crowding for the Reward of *Veterans* and *Invalids*, and preſſing to be employ'd, only by way of Cure for unavoidable Idleneſs. In theſe Caſes, it may be ſufficient to affix the ſame Date of *Performance* to the *Patron's Promiſe* and the *Petitioner's Claim*. For doubtleſs thoſe Men Libel a *Miniſtry*, who imagine that they rather want *Creatures* for their own Uſe, than *Officers* to ſerve the Publick; or that they believe there is leſs Danger of *His* proving Ungrateful, who truly ows *all* to his Patron, becauſe he has no Merit himſelf; than of *Him* deſerting the Cauſe of his Country, whoſe paſt Actions are the only Title to her Favour.

The other Grievance carries a more truſtful Aſpect, and will deſerve our moſt ſerious Lamentations, the Moment it breaks out upon us. *Quarrels at Court* are not, as heretofore, immediate Judgments upon the *People*, but upon the *Miniſtry*. I thought our Diviſions had this good effect, that by confining the publick Favours chiefly to *One Side*, the Leaders of that Side would more eaſily be ſatisfied. We ſee *Expectation* holds the *Whigs* together; and no wonder, ſince it is large enough to anſwer all Demands. Why ſhould not *Expectation of more*, upon the Security of a good Share already depoſited, work as powerfully upon Men of Principles and publick Spirits? That *Tory*, who wiſhes to Diſplace any one but a *Whig*, is really a *Whig* of the worſt ſort, and deſerves to loſe what he has already. I ſhall conſider my *Correſpondent*'s other *Caſes*, as they come up in their Turns. Only permit me to ſay at preſent, that if Intereſt can Divide us, when Danger and Diſtreſſes united us, our preſent Proſperity is a Curſe, and we are much better qualify'd for Adverſity.

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